

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SERVICE PRESENCE ON SCHOLARLY DELEGATIONS

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH EXECUTIVE BOARD OF COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION WITH PRC JANUARY 17 TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF FSO'S ACCOMPANYING CSC DELEGATIONS. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON NEED TO BALANCE CSC'S COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLE OF ACADEMIC INDEPENDENCE WITH DEPARTMENT'S NEED FOR DIRECT USG INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT-FACILITATED EXCHANGES. AS RESULT, TWO SIDES AGREED THAT AN FSO WILL BE ATTACHED TO ABOUT HALF OF CSC DELEGATIONS. NUMBER MAY FLUCTUATE HIGHER OR LOWER AS DETERMINED BY CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND CSC ON CURRENT STATE OF EVOLVING EXCHANGE PICTURE.

AGREEMENT ALSO REACHED ON ROLE OF ACCOMPANYING FSO. OFFICER WILL BE CONSIDERED MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION, BUT WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO GET INVOLVED IN DELEGATION'S STAFF WORK. DELEGATION WILL NOT LOOK TO FSO AS INTERPRETER, NOR AS PRIMARY RESOURCE PERSON ON CONTEMPORARY CHINA, ALTHOUGH FSO CONTRIBUTION TO MEET BOTH THESE NEEDS WILL BE WELCOME. (FROM NOW ON, EVERY CSC DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE FULL-TIME STAFFER AS WELL AS CHINA

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SCHOLAR/LINGUIST FROM ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.) FSO WILL NOT

GET INVOLVED IN DELEGATION'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS UNLESS INVITED BY DELEGATION LEADER. FSO OF COURSE WILL SERVE AS USG CONTACT POINT FOR ANY MATTER WHICH CHINESE OR DELEGATION WISH TO TAKE UP. FSO ALSO WILL BE EXPECTED TO SPEAK FOR USG ON ANY OCCASION WHEN DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES TOUCH ON QUESTIONS INVOLVING BROADER US-PRC RELATIONSHIP.

AS MEMBER OF DELEGATION, NAME OF ACCOMPANYING FSO WILL BE PROVIDED PRCLO ALONG WITH REST OF DELEGATION; THAT IS, WELL BEFORE FINAL DATES, ITINERARY, AND OTHER DETAILS OF VISIT WILL HAVE BEEN SET. THUS, IN NEXT THREE OR FOUR WEEKS WE WILL BE NAMING FSO FOR ONE OR BOTH OF CSC'S TWO SPRING DELEGATIONS: ACUPUNCTURE ANESTHESIA (MAY) AND HERBAL PHARMACOLOGY (JUNE). WE DO NOT EXPECT EITHER DELEGATION WILL BE GIVEN CHANCE TO VISIT "GRAY AREAS" OUTSIDE CHINA PROPER. IF USLO WISHES LIAISON OFFICE FSO'S CONSIDERED FOR THESE DELEGATIONS, PLEASE PROVIDE NAMES BY END JANUARY. (WE MAY IN THE END WISH TO ATTACH DEPARTMENT OFFICER TO ONE OF THESE DELEGATIONS AS THE USG REPRESENTATIVE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE USLO NOMINATION -- FOR BOTH, IF YOU WISH -- IN ANY CASE.)

FOR HONG KONG: WE STILL HOPE TO FIND A GOOD TEST CASE RE CONGEN'S FSO'S. IF WE WERE TO MAKE TEST OF A CSC GROUP AND TEST WERE TO FAIL, HOWEVER, IT COULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE OUR ENTIRE POSITION WITH THE CSC ON THIS ISSUE. WE REMAIN ALERT FOR APPROPRIATE GROUP. IN MEANTIME, WE ARE STILL HOPEFUL OF RESOLVING SATISFACTORILY THE CONSULTATION/TDY QUESTION, SO THAT CONGEN OFFICERS CAN GET CHINA EXPERIENCE (OTHER THAN CANTON FAIR) WITHOUT WAITING FOR EXCHANGE DELEGATIONS. KISSINGER

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